The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Be Sure to Buy CHRISTMAS SEALS!

Grandma Tells Women To Register and Vote

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent of AFL News Service

Chicago.—The immense responsibility and power of American women in political education was eloquently described by Mrs. Mary E. Ryder at the interstate conference of the Illinois and Wisconsin Women's Trade Union Leagues and Committees.

Mrs. Ryder, a widow, grandmother of 14, is president-emeritus of the St. Louis, Mo., Women's Trade Union League. She is an International Typographical Union member, employed as proofreader by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. She also is a social worker, and operates 3 homes in St. Louis—one for working girls, another for middle-aged women and a third for elderly women.

She told the 150 delegates to the conference that organized labor has only begun to organize the political strength of women unionists.

"Some 30 years ago," she said, "a new and significant privilege was granted to the women of America. Although it always had been contended that the hand that rocked the cradle ruled the world, it was not until the constitutional amendment of 1919 that women were given the right to vote and were clothed with all the legal rights of citizenship.

"Today, women occupy positions of trust as government ambassadors, control large business holdings, have occupied a seat in the Cabinet and possess the major portion of the wealth of the country.

"It is true that none of these high honors or holdings of wealth have reached the women of labor, yet labor's women control the purchasing power of labor, which runs into billions of dollars annually.

"They, too, own and control a weapon of political strength in the ballot. They can use it to protect democracy as we know it and value it. They can combine that voting strength for organized labor's benefit.

"In the voting booth, you, as an individual, wield as much power as anyone."

She compared the power of women in politics to the potential of Niagara Falls before it was harnessed to generate electricity.

"Labor is now building a powerhouse," she said. "You will be an important part of it. We are a little late with our building, but we will have to get busy. Next year, the enemies of labor will spend a lot of money, but we will have the ballots if we use them."

She called upon all AFL women to rally behind the leadership of Joseph D. Keenan in his work as head of Labor's League for Political Education.

"Never has the labor movement been blessed with such political sagacity as has been provided by Joe Keenan," she said.

In Chicago, the Women's Trade Union League has been a potent political force for years under the late Agnes Nestor and her successor, the current president, Miss Margaret Mahr. The league is credited with securing the 8-hour day law for women in Illinois, and the one-day's-rest-in-seven law which is applied to both men and women.

Dates of 1950 Primary Elections

Devaluation Hikes Living Costs For Britain's Workers

By ARTHUR DEAKIN
General Secretary of Britain's Largest Trade Union, the Transport and General Workers' Union.

London.—Once again, in time of crisis, Britain's Trades Union Congress was called upon by the United Kingdom government to advise on the best way of reaching an agreement on wages policy with industry.

The TUC general council's decision recommending a still stricter policy of voluntary wage restraint, marks a courageous attempt to give an authoritative lead to Britain's trade union movement in the critical economic situation.

This decision resulted from TUC decisions which have been taking place since the pound sterling was devalued in September 1949.

The changed value of the pound created a new situation. The cost of living was bound to rise a few points—automatically raising those wage rates linked to the cost of living by sliding-scale agreements. It was also bound to increase rank and file pressure on other unions to urge new wage claims. Any general rise in wages, salaries, or profits, however, would raise labor costs and so defeat the main object of the currency change, making Britain's goods more competitive in North American markets.

Britain's government, therefore, approached the TUC with a view to ensuring wage stability through voluntary trade union cooperation. As a result, the TUC's general council has announced a 7-point policy statement, recommending wages stabilization in relation to the cost of living.

At present, the cost of living index in Britain is 112. It is proposed that all agreed wages in industry should remain fixed for 12 months up to January 1, 1951, providing that during that time the cost of living figure does not rise as high as 118 or fall below 106. If either of these contingencies should arise collective bargaining machinery could be set in motion so that unions could claim increased wages in relation to the increased cost of living, and unions which have sliding-scale agreements relating wages to the cost of living should also be entitled to claim increments due.

A 6-point rise in the cost of living would be equivalent to a 5 percent reduction in wages.

However, the object of this policy is to stabilize prices and to prevent a rapid rise in the cost of living. At the same time, this policy preserves intact existing voluntary negotiation machinery for use in the event of a 6-point cost-of-living rise. Indeed, the policy statement insists that the existing machinery must be preserved as the only method of governing the adjustment of wages and working conditions, and maintaining the authority of the trade unions.

GETS 10 CENTS BOOST

San Francisco.—AFL Paint, Varnish and Brushmakers Union won a 10-cent-an-hour wage raise, retroactive to October 1, in a 2-year contract with employers in this area. The contract also provides 40 hours annual sick leave.

BUY U. S. BONDS

Washington.—The U. S. Treasury Department urged that veterans of World War II belonging to American Federation of Labor unions plan to invest all or most of their dividends on their National Service Life insurance in U. S. Savings Bonds.

LLPE Shows Where The Money Goes

Washington.—Labor's League for Political Education tells why it needs those $2 per member voluntary contributions.

One-half of your contribution comes back to your own state.

Here's how the money goes:

1. Every penny is used to help elect liberal Senators and Representatives.

2. Funds are used to publish the facts about liberal candidates and to document the case against the reactionaries.

3. It costs money to pay for radio programs, print posters, make trips, send letters and telegrams to set forth the liberals' point of view.

AFL Help Asked on New England Study

Washington.—The National Planning Association has asked the American Federation of Labor to join in a study and analysis of the effect of national policies on New England.

The AFL's New England regional offices have been invited to participate actively in the formation of the Committee of New England to make the analysis and recommend changes which may be needed to assure the area's full development along lines consistent with its own and the national interest.

The Planning Association said the work should be completed by the end of 1950.

Formation of this special Committee of New England results from a request by the Joint Committee on the Economic Report of Congress that NPA initiate a cooperative project to report to the congressional committee on "The Impact of Federal Policies on the Economy of New England." The proposed report would be along lines similar to a special report prepared under the auspices of the NPA Committee of the South, which was issued as a joint committee print last July.

In accordance with NPA's established procedures, the committee members will be drawn from a cross-section of leaders from all parts of New England who are broadly representative of the area's varied interests—from agriculture, business and manufacturing, finance, labor, government, and the professions.

E. J. Coil, director of the National Planning Association, in announcing the plans for the Committee of New England, stressed that the success of such a study depends in large measure on the support and cooperation of the people of New England. He said:

"New Englanders themselves know they can best decide what they want, what they do not like, and to what extent they agree that federal action is helping or hindering their region's economic development."

DEBALTA RESIGNS COURIER POSITION

Washington.—Stephen L. Debalta announced severance of his connection with the Trade Union Courier. He wrote to the AFL News Service:

Following the denunciation in your Nov. 29 issue of the Trade Union Courier, published in New York, I feel compelled for my own protection to make it known through your columns that I have severed my connection with that publication on Oct. 15 and do no longer represent it here.

"Furthermore the Trade Union Courier is no longer represented in Washington and has no office here, despite the fact that it continues to carry on its masthead the address and telephone number of its former office."

Gray Nails Cain Attack on Green; LLPE Hits Taft

Washington.—Richard J. Gray, president of the AFL Building Trades Department, nailed misrepresentations made by Sen. Harry P. Cain of Washington against AFL President William Green and the AFL.

Mr. Gray was in the audience of labor union members at Pasco, Wash., early in December when Senator Cain, who had requested permission to address the group, told the AFL members that Mr. Green and the AFL had refused to accept any amendments to a revised labor bill in the last session of Congress.

Mr. Gray took the floor immediately after Senator Cain to give the lie to the senator's charge and to state some of the evils of the Taft-Hartley law which make its complete repeal necessary.

The AFL official said the experience points up the necessity for every union member and officer to know what is wrong with the Taft-Hartley law and why the AFL wants it repealed. Such knowledge is the only sure way to combat the misrepresentations made by Senator Cain and others of his ilk.

Meanwhile Labor's League for Political Education criticized Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio for claiming that organized labor is sending "outsiders" into Ohio to influence voters in his campaign for reelection.

"It so happens," the League Reporter said, "that the most influential labor leader who has spoken against Taft in the Buckeye state is a native and a resident of Ohio. He formerly served in the Ohio Senate. We mean President William Green of the American Federation of Labor."

TECHNICAL AID OF WIDE VARIETY

(Special Correspondence)

Paris.—When Marshall Plan funds are spent for technical assistance and President Truman talks about technical assistance for underdeveloped areas of the world, the terms seem vague. But this item may help to point up the meaning of the term.

The Paris office of the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the European Recovery Program has just compiled a short list of current and recent technical assistance projects under which representatives of Marshall Plan countries are receiving instruction in the United States.

Take a glance at the things on which the United States is furnishing information to other countries to help themselves and, indirectly, keep them our good customers:

West Germany—Thermal powers, gas production.

France—Farm mechanization, hybrid seed corn study, gray iron foundry.

Greece—Government administrative training, reclamation work, fuel development and automotive maintenance.

Italy—Hybrid seed corn production.

Netherlands—Agricultural program, ceramics.

Turkey—Statistical training, hydraulic engineers.

Great Britain—Wood seasoning, steel technologies, modern baking processes, industrial productivity, manufacturing nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers, cotton textile, handling of materials, internal combustion engine, tailored clothing and electricity suppliers.

MOVE UP PAY DAY

New York.—Striking at "loan sharks" operating among longshoremen in need of money while waiting for pay day, the AFL International Longshoremen's Association has won an agreement with New York shipping and stevedoring companies to pay employes represented by the union on Friday for all work performed up to 6 p.m. the preceding Tuesday. Heretofore the Friday pay only included work up to midnight the previous Sunday.

AFL Workers Start White House Repairs

Washington.—Members of AFL building trades unions erect name of their employer, successful bidder for the contract to reconstruct the foundation walls and interior of America's most coveted address. Other AFL workmen were busy inside the presidential residence and putting up a high board fence which will hide the lower part of the White House from public view during the repair work.

Zander Urges AFL Spur Cooperatives

Kansas City, Mo.—Arnold S. Zander chairman of the AFL committee on cooperatives and president of State, County and Municipal Workers, said cooperatives stabilize farm income and protect the family farm.

He participated in a panel discussion at the 21st annual meeting of the Consumers' Cooperative Association. Other participants were Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan and Jerry Voorhis, secretary of the Cooperative League.

Reviewing the role of cooperatives in the British Isles in aiding the economic position of working people, Mr. Zander stressed the necessity for U. S. union members to spur the development of cooperatives for their protection as consumers and as an aid to farmers.

Reporting that the consumers' cooperative association had started with $3,000 in member capital in 1929, President Howard A. Cowden said:

"Today we have assets of $49,000,000 and a members' equity of $26,000,000. We serve nearly 400,000 farm and city people. If we achieve the same average rate of growth as European co-ops did from their 21st to 42d year, we will have quadrupled our volume and our membership, and multiplied our capital 10 times."

CLERKS WIN RAISE

Cleveland.—Almost 2,000 members of the AFL Retail Clerks Local 880 were due to get checks in time for Christmas for retroactive pay under a new wage agreement negotiated with 100 Atlantic & Pacific stores in northeastern Ohio. Increases ranged as high as $6 per week. The new contract is the tenth signed with A. & P. in the Cleveland area. Since 1940 wages have been increased 150 percent and the work-week reduced 15 hours.

VACATION TREND SHOWN

Albany, N. Y.—Sixty-eight mills covered by contracts with the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers (AFL) now give vacations of 3 weeks or longer, with a definite trend indicated in the paper industry.

AUTO WORKERS GIVE ILL MEMBERS CHECKS

Cleveland.—United Automobile Workers Local 294 of the AFL voted to send Christmas checks of $25 each to workers at the Cleveland Hardware plant who have been out of work because of sickness.

Local 294 is reputed to have one of the best member welfare programs in the Midwest.

WIN INSURANCE

Springfield, Mo.—United Auto Workers Local 766 of the AFL is the first labor group in this entire area to win health and accident insurance for its members. In a new contract with Trailmobile Co., the employer agrees to pay the entire cost of life insurance, weekly accident and sickness benefits, hospital and surgical costs.

Sees U. S. Neglecting Its Musical Heritage

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—Federal, state and local governments "should consider seriously what can be done to further the arts in our country."

The proposal is made by Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin in an exclusive article for the current "Allegro," monthly publication of Local 802, American Federation of Musicians.

"As a first step," he writes, "it might be advisable for leading groups in our midst to appoint a commission of outstanding citizens, specialists in the various arts, to examine the state of the arts in the United States and to make recommendations, after detailed study, to those in positions of influence and authority.

"In an investigation of this kind, I should like to see the status of the musicians, as a creative being, thoroughly studied. I know that organized labor, which would, of course, be represented on such a commission, would thoroughly support such a project."

The cabinet member declared that there is "insufficient encouragement given in our country to the development of our musical heritage," that musical talent in America "has little opportunity for creative employment" and that each year "potentially fine talents among our young men and women are driven away and discouraged."

"It seems to me that as a country we should devote more of our resources to maturing our human resources, not only physically but also spiritually and culturally. I think that we must in coming years seek out the talented youngsters—the potentially good artists, whether with pallet or piano, with chisel or camera—and encourage them, help them so that our country can materially contribute even more richly to the cultural growth of the democratic world."

Ohio, Indiana, South Set Gompers' Rallies

States Start Organizing Drive for 1,000,000 More Members

Washington.—Harry O'Reilly, AFL director of organization, announced that state federations of labor are setting January dates for Samuel Gompers Memorial Organizing rallies in the drive for 1,000,000 new AFL members in 1950.

Ohio will hold its rally Jan. 21 and 22 in Columbus. Indiana will meet Jan. 28 and 29 in Indianapolis.

Southern states are setting dates to follow consecutively after each other in line with the recommendations of the successful 14-state southern organizing conference held in New Orleans.

The organizing rallies are the opening features of the Samuel Gompers Centennial Year to be observed throughout 1950 by the American Federation of Labor in honor of the 100th anniversary of the founder and first president of the AFL.

The year will open with a national Gompers Memorial Dinner at Hotel Statler, Washington, on Jan. 5, in advance of the January 27 birthday of Mr. Gompers.

The 1,000,000 member organizing drive is linked in with efforts of AFL's Labor League for Political Education to elect a liberal Congress in the 1950 campaign.

Label Trades Head Is Critically Ill

Cornwall, N. Y.—Ira M. Ornburn, 60, secretary-treasurer of the AFL Union Label Trades Department, is seriously ill in Cornwall Hospital.

Mr. Ornburn suffered a stroke and entered the hospital on Dec. 5. Dr. H. M. Gasparian, his physician, said that Mr. Ornburn is suffering also from "other complications."

I. M. ORNBURN

Members of Mr. Ornburn's family were called to his bedside. Mr. Ornburn is a native of Moberly, Mo. He joined the International Union of Cigar Makers in 1908. He has been secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department for many years and is the founder of the Union Industries Show, the only labor-management show of its kind in the world.

4,000 Fishermen Go AFL in South

Biloxi, Miss.—One of the largest independent fishermen's organizations in the Gulf Coast area has affiliated with the American Federation of Labor through the Seafarers International Union.

J. L. Rhodes, AFL southern director, said it is the Gulf Coast Shrimpers' and Oystermen's Association, heretofore an independent association of fishermen operating along the Gulf Coast area of Mississippi, with headquarters at Biloxi, a branch office at Pascagoula, Miss., and a large hotel at Biloxi for the convenience of its members.

The association is completing its affiliation as rapidly as the changeover can be made. There are almost 4,000 members in the association and all of its members will be transferred to the Seafarers International Union in accordance with the affiliation agreement.

The Seafarers International Union chartered the Gulf Coast Shrimpers' and Oystermen's Association as a subordinate branch of the Seafarers International Union in the southern district.

Officers of the organization are Louis Simmons, president; Mackie Fountain, vice president; Charles Allen, secretary, and Leon Strong, treasurer.

Assisting in the affiliation and negotiations leading up to the culmination of the affiliation effort were W. L. Hines, president of the Mississippi Federation of Labor and organizer for the American Federation of Labor, together with the Seafarers International representatives, U. C. Borsarge and Leon Neira, and Vice President Calvin Tanner.

Supreme Court Says Local Option Rent Law Valid

Washington.—The constitutionality of the 1949 federal rent control law was sustained by the Supreme Court recently in a brief order reversing the decision of a lower court. The ruling, unanimous and with Justice William O. Douglas not participating, upset a decision by Judge Elwyn R. Shaw in the Chicago Federal District Court. Judge Shaw had held the law invalid because a "local option" clause allowed states or cities to end or establish their own rent controls.

Judge Shaw construed this as an unconstitutional delegation of power by Congress. He found that it would not have passed the 1949 statute without this "local option" section, and consequently he held the whole act invalid.

The Chicago case arose when the Housing Expediter sued to stop Shoreline Cooperative Apartments, Inc., of that city from evicting tenants of a cooperatively owned apartment house. Under the law, tenants of a cooperative house cannot be ejected unless 65 percent of them are stockholders. The expediter said that not that many lived in the building.

In appealing the Shoreline case to the Supreme Court, the Department of Justice said that about 14,000,000 housing accommodations remained under rent control in the country.

Tighe E. Woods, Federal Housing Expediter, was elated by the Supreme Court action.

"Under its opinion, the court in effect rules that the housing shortage growing out of the war still exists," he said.

Mr. Woods upheld a ban on rent increases in the Chicago area.

The Cook County Rent Advisory Board reported it had found that no general increase in maximum rents should take place now, and the Federal Housing Expediter said that the finding "is supported by adequate and substantial evidence."

Clerks Pact Speeds Shopping; Praised

San Francisco.—A strikeless wage negotiation which enabled Christmas shopping to proceed uninterruptedly was negotiated by the AFL Retail Clerks Local 1100 for 6,500 members in large downtown department stores.

The agreement provides $2.50 weekly increase for nonselling employes; establishment of a $15 minimum guaranteed commission on top of regular wages each month, and a greater measure of union security. The 6-year contract may be reopened on wages, hours and welfare benefits.

The San Francisco Call-Bulletin editorialized:

"San Francisco downtown department stores and the AFL Clerks union have added a refreshing and, indeed, exemplary note to local labor-management relations . . . there was no hot headed recriminations, no hurling of strike threats and no angry exchanges.

"Let's hope that the methods in this case, methods whose effectiveness has been proven by results, will set the pattern for all of our labor-management discussions in the future."

AFL DELEGATION HOME

Washington.—George P. Delaney, AFL international representative, was the first of the AFL delegation to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions to return to headquarters but AFL President William Green and other members of the group were due back by Dec. 16.

Delaney told a group of Dutch trade unionists on a visit to AFL headquarters that the London meeting establishing a new anticommunist world federation of organized labor was "highly successful."

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1949 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

Be Sure to Buy CHRISTMAS SEALS!

Green-Meany See World-Wide Fight On Poverty, Reds

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent AFL News Service

New York. — President William Green said that organization of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in London will eventually mean "the lifting of standards of wages and working conditions in all democratic countries and therefore will be of great benefit to American workers."

He made his statement in a shipboard press conference on the Queen Mary which brought back the AFL president as well as George Meany, secretary-treasurer; Charles J. McGowan, president of the Boilermakers Union; W. C. Doherty, president of the National Association of Letter-Carriers, and George Harrison, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, all AFL vice presidents.

It was a triumphant return for the AFL leaders whose negotiations with other national trade union movements had averted any calamitous rifts and had led to the establishment of a democratic world labor federation with representation in 53 nations and able to speak in the name of 49,750,000 workers.

Working in close harmony with the AFL officials were the spokesmen for the Congress of Industrial Organizations. Two of their delegates, CIO Vice President Allan Haywood and David MacDonald, secretary-treasurer of the United Steelworkers of America, returned on the same boat and participated in the joint press conference with the AFL spokesmen.

"The two delegations acted unitedly," said President Green. "I can truthfully say that there is real international unity between both groups because we agreed so thoroughly on all proposals. We are both satisfied with the work done, and the sound actions taken."

Secretary Meany stated that "the kind of unity we have achieved on the international front should help achieve unity between the AFL and CIO on the domestic front."

Secretary Meany said that the international confederation would make possible "a real fight against communist influence the world over." He said:

"The fight against communism will go on, through the international confederation of free trade unions, right inside the iron curtain countries. There were many delegates at the London conference from Soviet-occupied lands and we intend to maintain liaison with the democratic elements that remain in those iron curtain countries."

Secretary Meany also declared that one of the most important steps taken by the conference was "the action against dictator Franco which should be of great encouragement to Spanish workers who are fighting fascism."

The delegation agreed that the biggest job would be to initiate real support for the "point four," bold new program, to aid foreign countries raise their living standards with U. S. help and know-how, and it was President Green who disclosed that wide cooperation had been pledged in the international confederation to a program to implement point four.

A meeting of the confederation's executive board is to be convened in the next few months when application for consultative status will be made to the United Nations.

Two other AFL delegates, Vice President Matthew Woll and President David Dubinsky of the International Ladies Garment Workers are returning Dec. 26 on the Queen Elizabeth. They remained behind for special missions to Paris and Geneva on behalf of the AFL.

IBEW Local 3 Buys Long Island Estate

(Special Correspondence)

New York City.—This area's electrical workers, already beneficiaries of a noncontributory pension and welfare system, are owners of a beautiful 300-acre estate in ritzy Southampton, Long Island, which is going to be transformed by next spring into a convalescent home for union members.

Purchased for $125,000 to benefit Local 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the estate and a luxurious 31-room residence as well as cottages, once belonged to former Secretary of War Dwight W. Davis.

It overlooks Long Island Sound and has several miles of private beaches. Formal purchase was made by the Joint Industry Board of the Electrical Industry, labor-management group in the metropolitan area.

CAPITAL'S PRIVATE JOBS OUTRANK U. S.

Washington. — Privately employed workers outnumber government workers in—of all places—Washington, D. C.

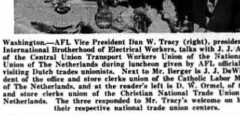
The Labor Department's Bureau of Employment Security estimates that on September 1, 1949, there were 373,800 privately employed workers in the District of Columbia labor-market area, which includes suburban areas of Maryland and Virginia.

Public employes in federal, district and local governments numbered 250,700.

AFL Delegates at Historic London Meeting

London.—AFL delegates to the historic meeting which established the anti-communist International Confederation of Free Trades Unions pose for their picture in the London County Hall just before adjournment of the sessions. Missing is Vice President Charles J. MacGowan, president of the Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders. Left to right are AFL Vice President George Harrison, president Railway Clerks; Jay Lovestone, adviser to International Ladies Garment Workers; Secretary-Treasurer George Meany; Vice President William C. Doherty, president Letter Carriers; Vice President Matthew Woll, Photo-Engravers; President William Green; Henry Rutz, AFL representative in Germany; Vice President David Dubinsky, president Ladies Garment Workers; George P. Delaney, AFL international representative; James A. Brownlow, secretary-treasurer Metal Trades Department; Irving Brown, AFL representative in Europe, and Taylor Buchanan, editor Molders and Foundry Workers Journal.

AFL Cements Relations With Dutch



Washington.—AFL Vice President Dan W. Tracy (right), president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, talks with J. J. A. Berger of the Central Union Transport Workers Union of the National Trade Union of The Netherlands during luncheon given by AFL officials for 13 visiting Dutch trades unionists. Next to Mr. Berger is J. J. DeWit, president of the office and store clerks union of the Catholic Labor Movement of The Netherlands, and at the reader's left is D. W. Ormel, of the office and store clerks union of the Christian National Trade Union of The Netherlands. The three responded to Mr. Tracy's welcome on behalf of their respective national trade union centers.

Says Jobless Funds Can Afford a Boost In Benefit Amounts

Washington.—Robert C. Goodwin, director of U. S. Bureau of Employment Security, said an analysis shows that state unemployment compensation trust funds are "not only large enough to meet all contingencies in the foreseeable future, but to finance increased benefits."

His analysis was submitted to a meeting of the bureau's federal advisory council which includes AFL representatives.

"This analysis," Goodwin said, "discloses that benefit disbursements nationally were about twice as large during the 12 months ending September 30, 1949, as they were during the previous 12-month period. However, the aggregate sum of the 51-state reserve funds held in the Federal Unemployment Trust Fund declined by less than 5 percent.

"With the exception of 2 states, funds now available for future benefit payments in the trust fund could easily withstand the impact of a sharp rise in unemployment. As a matter of fact, most state reserve accounts in the federal trust fund are not only large enough to meet all contingencies in the foreseeable future but to finance increased benefits."

Goodwin said the aggregate sum of all the state reserves in the Federal Unemployment Trust Fund available for benefit payments on September 30, 1949, was $7,156,300,000, as contrasted with $7,475,100,000 on the corresponding date in 1948 and $7,600,000,000 on December 31, 1948.

"While nationally the trust fund is in splendid shape, some state accounts are in much better condition than others," Goodwin said. "This is due to the fact that the reserves of the various states are not pooled and interchangeable. Each state has its own separate account in the trust fund. As a result, the ability of each state to make payments to unemployed workers is governed by the solvency of its own account. In the case of one or two states, funds available are not large enough to withstand a prolonged period of high unemployment."

In order to safeguard reserves in states which might be threatened with insolvency and to assure continued payment of benefits when due, the Labor Department is suggesting to the council the establishment of a federal reinsurance fund from which grants could be made to states whose reserves had become seriously impaired.

Goodwin said that only about 7 out of every 10 employes in the country are covered by unemployment insurance.

"The time is overdue to extend unemployment insurance to small firms," Goodwin said. "Almost 3,000,000 are employed in small firms that are not yet covered."

GET CHRISTMAS BONUS

St. Louis.—Members of Federal Labor Union 22,765 won a 6½ percent Christmas bonus amounting to $40,000 at National Lead Co., Granite City, Ill.

J. H. Skaggs, AFL organizer, negotiated the bonus, which is in addition to any benefits provided under the contract. The contract does not expire until May 17, 1950.

Herzog NLRB Vote Upholds Teamsters

Washington.—Chairman Paul M. Herzog cast the deciding vote upholding the right of the AFL Teamsters Union 807 to picket a company's trucks at the premises of a customer in an important National Labor Relations Board decision. The Teamsters' right to picket was supported by a 3-2 vote of the board.

The board thus reversed a finding by a trial examiner that the New York City Teamsters' local had violated the secondary boycott ban of the Taft-Hartley law by such picketing.

The union began picketing trucks of Schultz Refrigerated Service Co. after the company locked out its drivers by moving its terminal from New York City to Slackwood, N. J., near Trenton.

Charges against the union were made after the picketing of Schultz trucks at plants of several New York city firms. The pickets followed the trucks to the plant loading dockets and then formed a line around the truck. General Counsel Robert N. Denham contended that this was a secondary boycott prohibited by the Taft-Hartley law but he was overruled by the board by the narrowest of margins.

SET CONVENTION DATE

Washington.—The executive committee of the AFL National Federation of Insurance Agents' Council selected Washington for its annual convention during the week of May 15 1950.

3 More States Set Gompers' Rallies In Member Drive

Washington.—Harry O'Reilly, AFL director of organization, announced 3 more states had scheduled rallies starting their 1950 Samuel Gompers Memorial Organizing Drive to get 1,000,000 new members.

"This thing is beginning to roll," Reilly commented as he received rally dates from West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Minnesota. Previously Indiana and Ohio had announced their plans.

Minnesota Federation of Labor leaders and representatives will meet at 10 a.m., January 23, in Stt. Paul; Pennsylvania in Harrisburg at 10 a.m. on January 31, and West Virginia at Clarksburg at 9:30 a.m. on February 19.

Meanwhile J. L. Rhodes, director of southern organizing, gave a detailed report of the 14-state southern rally held at New Orleans. He said that these states are expected to arrange a close schedule of meetings to accommodate national AFL leaders invited to attend.

The southern conference recommended that "every central labor union and every affiliated local union participate in the state federation sponsored organizational conferences to be conducted in January and subsequent district or local rallies."

"It is also recommended that the most vigorous emphasis be stressed upon the ideals, principles and philosophies of the American Federation of Labor," the conference said.

South Points Up Organizing Goal

New Orleans.—James A. Glenn of the American Federation of Labor's general counsel office, J. L. Rhodes, southern director of organization, and Harry O'Reilly, AFL director of organization, are pictured at the 14-state southern organizing conference which opened the AFL's drive for 1,000,000 new members in 1950 as a memorial to Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL.

DON'T WE ALL?

Ottawa, Canada.—First statistics published by the Dominion of Canada's Bureau of Statistics on a survey of family expenditures show "a pattern in which the average family is overspending its income." In Montreal the amount is $8 a year and in Halifax $300 per year.

U. S. Issues Stamp To Honor Gompers

Washington.—Postmaster General Jesse M. Donaldson has authorized issuance of a new 3-cent stamp to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor.

The stamp will be placed on sale for the first time at Washington, D. C., on Jan. 27, 1950, the 100th anniversary of Mr. Gompers' birth in London, England.

The size, color and design of the stamp will be announced later. It is expected to be the size of the "famous Americans" series and will contain a likeness of Mr. Gompers.

Mr. Donaldson acted on a request of AFL President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany made in behalf of the AFL committee for observance of the Gompers' centenary.

President Truman threw his efforts behind the request, one of 400 pending for 1950 commemorative stamps. The President was understood to feel that if only one commemorative was issued next year it should be in honor of the man who founded the AFL, the most enduring, oldest and biggest national trade union center in American history.

Plans for the first day sale and appropriate cachet will be announced.

Co-ops Can Bring End To Home 'Lock-Out'

Washington.—The AFL says union members have been locked out of new homes.

"Most members of AFL unions are among the 40 percent of American families with incomes of $2,000 to $3,750 a year," the AFL said in a new pamphlet, "Homes for Union Members."

"This is the middle income group in our population; thus far this group has benefited very little from any housing legislation," the AFL said. Congress has passed housing aid in the form of financing for high-income families and provided for construction of low-rent public housing projects for low-income families.

The AFL believes that the middle-income families of the nation can be helped by the cooperative housing program provided by the bill sponsored by Sen. John Sparkman of Alabama.

"One section of the bill is designed specifically to help union members join together with other people in similar circumstances to finance and build the kind of apartments and homes you would like to live in at rents that you can afford to pay," the AFL pamphlet explains.

The pamphlet, available to AFL members through their local central labor union housing committees, urges local unions to pass resolutions supporting the Sparkman bill and to contact members of Congress personally and by letter advocating their support.

AFL President William Green said in a letter accompanying copies of the pamphlet that AFL unions should get behind the bill which he said should be coming up for consideration early in the forthcoming session of Congress.

KEEPS KALAMAZOO CONTROL

Washington.—A proposal by the Kalamazoo, Mich., rent advisory board to decontrol the city and county of Kalamazoo has been disapproved by Housing Expediter Tighe E. Woods because the evidence submitted by the board "is not sufficient to show that the demand for rental housing has been reasonably met." Data on Kalamazoo indicates there is still a housing shortage.

Home Building Sets New Record

Washington.—All previous housing records were broken in November, when 93,000 new nonfarm dwelling units were started.

November starts brought the total thus far in 1949 to 937,100, according to preliminary estimates of the U. S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics. This 11-month total surpasses the 937,000 units begun in all of 1925, the former peak year in homebuilding. There is little doubt now that the total number of new units started this year will exceed a million.

November housing activity marks the fifth consecutive month during which previously existing records for the month were shattered. The sharp seasonal drop usually characteristic of this time of the year has failed to materialize in 1949.

Gains in both privately and publicly financed housing have contributed to the increased volume of homebuilding activity in 1949 compared with 1948.

LEGION STARTS CO-OP

Blackwell, Okla.—Construction has been started on a 61 single-family unit veterans' cooperative housing project, the first to be started in the state under the American Legion's sponsorship. The project is being built under a provision of the National Housing Act permitting the FHA to finance houses to be built by a non-profit corporation and sold to members of the corporation.

Stations Added to Edwards Broadcast

Washington.—Additional stations have joined the Frank Edwards news broadcast program to be sponsored by the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. Edwards, who is being heard nightly Monday through Friday now on a sustaining basis, can be tuned in over Mutual Broadcasting System stations at 10 p.m. EST.

AFL headquarters is compiling a new complete listing of stations which will carry Mr. Edwards commentary. There have been some changes in broadcast time also. This new list will be published as soon as completed.

In the meantime AFL officials are urged to check their local Mutual stations for the time of Mr. Edwards' broadcast.

Texile Workers Win Over CIO In South

Asheville, N. C.—The AFL United Textile Workers trounced the CIO by a 4-to-one vote for 3,000 employes at the American Enka Corp. as the climax to an abortive CIO raid.

The United Textile Workers received 2,015 votes, 77 percent of those cast, while the CIO polled only 530. The CIO total was less than one-half the number of cards shown National Labor Relations Board field agents.

The company, pending outcome of the election, stalled negotiations on a new contract with the AFL. Hard-hitting machinery set up by United Textile Workers Local 2598 officers, shop and chief stewards, rank and file members and international representatives carried the AFL to victory.

In urging a vote for the AFL, Textile Workers President Anthony Valente told the workers in a preelection statement:

"You can protect your AFL seniority rights, the wages which we have won, the AFL paid holidays, the years of work and achievement which today places the Enka worker in the forefront of all rayon workers."

Throughout the campaign, AFL officers insisted that terms of the contract then in effect must be adhered to and that neither the company nor the CIO would be allowed to tear down the conditions built for Enka workers over the past 10 years.

AIRS POLITICAL PROGRAM

New York.—Radio station WFDR operated by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union of the AFL is broadcasting a 3-times-a-week program of political interpretation by Gus Tyler, union political director.

Meat Cutters Plan Co-Op Apartments $53 Per Month Up

New York.—The AFL Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America announced plans for a cooperative apartment house for 288 families with rents to start at $53 per month.

A charter for the development was granted by the New York State Housing Commissioner Herman T. Stichman to the AFL union. The presentation was made to Union Vice President Joseph Belsky.

The project is to be known as the Harry Silver Apartments, in memory of a deceased union member, and will be located in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn.

Three 6-story semifireproof elevator apartment houses will be constructed on a land area of 127,000 square feet located centrally in Brooklyn within one-fare zone.

The development will contain 30 apartments with 5½ rooms, 186 with 4½ rooms, 72 with 3½ rooms, with an over-all average of 4.35 rooms. The project cost is estimated at $2,887,000, which includes 136 garage stalls to be located beneath the apartment buildings.

The maintenance charges will be $53 per month for 3½ rooms, $65 for 4½ rooms, $75 for 5½ rooms, averaging throughout the development to $14.47 per room monthly carrying charge. The figures do not include gas and electricity, which will be provided by master metering and at a general savings to all the cooperators. The cooperative investment necessary is computed at $240 per room.

A report on the project was made to Harry C. Bates, president of the AFL Bricklayers Union and chairman of the AFL National Housing Committee.

"This development," the Meat Cutters told Mr. Bates, "is being designed to become the leader in progressive future housing developments through the entire state. This is further evidenced by the fact that only 34 percent of the surface coverage of the lots will be occupied by building units. The remaining 66 percent of the land is apportioned to the finest landscaping with recessed playgrounds to protect the children from street traffic."

The project will be financed by a 40-year mortgage in the amount of $2,585,000 at 3½ percent interest.

Urges U. S. Probe Unjustified Steel Price Increases

Washington. — Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney planned to ask Congress to call officials of U. S. Steel Corp. and other steel companies "to lay the case on the table" for what he feels are unjustified price increases averaging 4 percent and $4 per ton.

U. S. Steel announced the increase, claiming it is necessary to cover worker pension costs despite the finding by President Truman's steel fact-finding board that the cost of the pension system could be absorbed by the companies without further price increases.

"United States Steel is doing more harm to the American economic system than all the crackpots have ever done," Senator O'Mahoney said. He is chairman of the joint congressional committee on the economic report.

The price increase averages about 4 percent for most steel products, and Benjamin Fairless, president of the corporation, said that it was necessitated by the recent increase in freight rates and the cost of the pension plan which the United Steelworkers of America, CIO, recently won from the industry.

"On the record," Senator O'Mahoney said, "the steel industry is not justified in levying an increased tax upon the whole economy of the United States. Let's not deceive ourselves. It would be a tax on our whole system. It would interfere with the stabilization of the economy both here and abroad."

The action, which is expected to be followed quickly by other major companies, may bring moderate price advances in hundreds of consumer articles in which steel is a component, but automotive and appliance manufacturers are reported ready to absorb the higher steel cost.

The price advances, the first by a major steel producer since July, 1948, will yield the U. S. Steel about $80,000,000 annually in additional revenues, an amount equalling the estimated yearly cost to the corporation of the pension-insurance program which settled the recent steel strike.

Some typical examples of the direct effect of a $4-a-ton steel price increase on consumer products made with the metal are as follows: a rise of about $8 in the cost of steel for an automobile, 40 cents on a refrigerator, 60 cents on a metal office desk, 27 cents on a large kitchen cabinet, $3 on a farm tractor, 5.8 cents on a lawn mower and 4 cents on a garbage can.

Although the price revisions amount to an average increase of 4 percent, the quotations on some products are left unchanged and the price of its tin mill articles are reduced by as much as $3.30 a ton. The increases ranged up to $29.50 a ton.

Tennessee Women Form Auxiliary

Nashville, Tenn.—The Tennessee Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor, state branch of the American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor, came into existence in a statewide conference.

The organization was attended by many groups of ladies auxiliaries together with representatives from the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, representatives from the Nashville Trades and Labor Council, the Tennessee Federation of Labor and representatives from the American Federation of Labor.

The Tennessee Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor will assist in sponsoring closer relationship between the women auxiliaries in Tennessee, in educational work leading toward organization of the unorganized, sponsorship of registering and qualifying for voting, and conducting of educational campaigns in support of the Union Label.

The American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor, headed by Mrs. Herman H. Lowe, is sponsored by the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor and the creation of the Tennessee state branch adds a strong and supporting link in the national chain of Women's Auxiliaries in developing purchasing power of the wage earners through dedication of money spent for purchases of products manufactured under union conditions.

LETTER CARRIERS TO START HOME

Washington. — The AFL National Association of Letter Carriers plan to ask bids about Jan. 1 for a new 8-story building to be used as national headquarters.

The union, headed by AFL Vice President W. C. Doherty, has acquired 6,800 square feet of ground at 1st Street and Indiana Avenue N.W. on which the structure of Georgia marble will be erected.

Hopes are held that contracts may be awarded by the end of January and construction completed in 1951.

HEY, BOSS!

New York.—The American worker's high production is due largely to the fact that he actually uses more minutes of every hour he is on the job than is the case in the United Kingdom.

That is the impression gained by Francis G. Mulligan, tailor's presser of Coop & Co. of Wigans, Lancs., following his 6 weeks' tour of the United States with a United Kingdom productivity team.